United Nations A/63/844–S/2009/237

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda items 97, 98 and 99

Crime prevention and criminal justice

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 4 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the outcome document of the subregional workshop on the preparation of responses to the United Nations Security Council Committees dealing with counter-terrorism, held in Nairobi from 11 to 13 November 2008 (see annex). The workshop, which was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kenya, was organized by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with the experts of the Committees.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 97, 98 and 99, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zachary D. Muburi-**Muita**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-32925 (E) 080509

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Annex to the letter dated 4 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Subregional workshop on the preparation of responses to the United Nations Security Council Committees dealing with counter-terrorism

Nairobi, 11-13 November 2008

Outcome document

We, the delegations of Algeria, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda;

Gathered together to share and discuss our efforts, and share our experiences and challenges in dealing with terrorism at the Sub-Regional Workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11 to 13 November 2008, on the preparation of responses to the Security Council Committees dealing with counter-terrorism ("the Committees");

And in the presence of the United Nations, represented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities (the Monitoring Team) and the Expert Group of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) concerning the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and non-State actors (the 1540 Expert Group), as well as the following observers: INTERPOL and the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism;

Expressing our appreciation of the efforts undertaken by UNODC, in particular, its Terrorism Prevention Branch and the UNODC Regional Office for Eastern Africa, for the collective action undertaken in the organization of this Workshop, as well as by CTED, the Monitoring Team and the 1540 Expert Group in implementing a common strategy to assist us to submit our responses to each of the Committees as a step towards the effective implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions relating to terrorism and the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (General Assembly resolution 60/288);

Reiterating the strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

Reaffirming that our international cooperation and any measures we take to prevent and combat terrorism must comply with the objectives of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and all our obligations under international law, and adopt such measures in accordance with international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law;

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly on 8 September 2006 of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

1. As a step in the global fight against terrorism, agree to continue the dialogue between our respective States and the Committees, including through cooperation with CTED, the Monitoring Team and the 1540 Expert Group who support these Committees;

2. Reiterate the necessity for all United Nations Member States to:

(a) Submit any outstanding responses to each of the Committees as soon as possible, as a step towards the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions relating to terrorism;

(b) Become parties to the relevant universal instruments relating to terrorism, without delay, in accordance with the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions;

(c) Enact, where appropriate, the necessary domestic legislation for the full incorporation of the provisions of the universal instruments relating to terrorism, and the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions;

3. Reiterate the necessity for UNODC to continue to provide interested States with the relevant technical assistance required in view of:

(a) Facilitating the elaboration of our responses in cooperation with the Committees and their expert groups;

(b) Promoting and encouraging ratification, accession and implementation of the relevant universal instruments relating to terrorism, and to strengthen international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters related to terrorism, including through national capacity-building, in accordance with the resolution 62/71 of 6 December 2007 of the General Assembly;

4. Recognize the unique security situation of Somalia and its impact on the region and reiterate a firm commitment to build State institutional capacity to obtaining relevant technical assistance to play its role in implementing relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions relating to terrorism;

5. Invite the Government of Kenya to bring this Outcome Document to the attention of relevant international institutions.

Adopted at Nairobi on 13 November 2008

United Nations A/63/845

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 97
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 6 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the Manama Declaration on Human Trafficking, which was adopted at the International Conference entitled "Human Trafficking at the Crossroads", held in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain, from 1 to 3 March 2009 (see annex). I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 97.

(*Signed*) Tawfeeq Ahmed **Almansoor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-32919 (E) 120509

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Annex to the letter dated 6 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic and English]

Manama Declaration on "Human Trafficking at the Crossroads"

Kingdom of Bahrain, 1-3 March 2009

The participants in the Manama International Conference express their deep appreciation to Her Highness Shaikha Sabeeka Al-Khalifa, wife of the King of Bahrain, and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their commitment and contribution to the success of our conference, concluding with this Declaration.

We commend the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement for initiating the campaign "End Human Trafficking Now!" in 2006. The Athens Ethical Principles adopted then are even more relevant today, particularly as we are facing crises of unprecedented magnitude. We need to work even harder for the protection, safety and dignity of vulnerable groups, especially women and children, whose very survival is threatened.

We recognize in this moment of crisis that we need to exercise leadership by:

1. Working with the private sector to achieve zero tolerance for human trafficking by adopting the Athens Ethical Principles.

2. Encouraging Governments to implement national strategies to end human trafficking according to the United Nations Protocol.[a]

3. Urging the adoption and implementation of national legal frameworks to include human trafficking as a criminal offence and ensure the protection of victims.

4. Requesting regional entities to develop frameworks to enhance inter-country collaboration to end human trafficking between countries.

5. Urging the General Assembly to adopt a global plan of action against human trafficking.

6. Publicly acknowledging ethically based business practices as a major contribution towards restoring confidence in the private sector.

7. Requesting business partners to include elimination of human trafficking in their corporate social responsibility programmes.

8. Requesting industry associations and international standards organizations to work towards including elimination of human trafficking within their standards.

9. Supporting the creation of helplines and networks of services required for victims of trafficking.

10. Encouraging the media and the cultural and artistic communities to continue their leadership in awareness-raising and disseminating best practices.

[a] The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

11. Strengthening information sharing on progress made;

12. Ensuring the continued support of the international partners involved in the campaign "End Human Trafficking Now!"

13. Reconvening in two years to assess steps taken to implement this declaration.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 103 (c)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 6 May 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a Declaration by the United Nations Democracy Caucus of the Community of Democracies on the election of members of the Human Rights Council, issued during the presidency of Portugal (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 103 (c).

(Signed) Jorge **Lobo de Mesquita**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

09-33002 (E) 080509

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Annex to the letter dated 6 May 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the United Nations Democracy Caucus of the Community of Democracies on the election of members of the Human Rights Council

The members of the Community of Democracies, gathered as the United Nations Democracy Caucus, reaffirm the commitment contained in the Santiago Ministerial Communiqué (A/59/814, annex) and in the Bamako Concensus (A/62/867, annex) to support the candidacy of countries contributing effectively to the promotion and protection of democracy and human rights worldwide in bodies focused on elements of democratic governance, such as the Human Rights Council.

On the eve of the forthcoming elections for membership in the Human Rights Council, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251, in which the Assembly called on all Member States to take into account the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights and their voluntary pledges and commitments when electing members to the Council, we, the members of the Community of Democracies, appeal to the membership of the United Nations to favour those Member States that have demonstrated a genuine commitment to human rights, both in practice and in their pledges.

We reiterate our belief in the importance of the composition of the Human Rights Council with respect to its credibility and effectiveness as a human rights body and therefore reiterate the importance of electing to the Council only those Member States whose commitment to human rights not only can be demonstrated by their pledges and commitments but also has been demonstrated in practice.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 49
Sustainable development

Letter dated 7 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the attached letter regarding the declaration of 2009 as the "Year of Our Native Land" in Belarus (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 49.

(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-33132 (E) 110509 110509

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Annex to the letter dated 7 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

At a time when, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Commission on Sustainable Development is discussing issues which, to a large extent, must be successfully addressed in order to secure the future of humanity and the sustainable development of continents and regions (improvements in agricultural efficiency and conservation of land, water and other vital natural resources), I have the honour to inform you and the States Members of the United Nations of the initiative in Belarus to declare 2009 the "Year of Our Native Land".

The objective of the Year of Our Native Land is in line with one of the most important cross-cutting tasks of the Commission on Sustainable Development: protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development. In addition, this initiative is intended to be a tool for stimulating sustainable development by preserving and building on cultural and historical assets.

Bearing in mind the agenda of the Commission on Sustainable Development, I should like to describe briefly the events taking place in Belarus as part of the Year of Our Native Land.

Agriculture and rural development

Agricultural and rural development in Belarus is not a sectoral task but a nationwide priority. Precisely for that reason, a comprehensive State programme for rural regeneration and development for 2005-2010 was adopted in 2005 with a budget of $35 billion. Through the implementation of the programme, relatively high indicators have been achieved in the agricultural sector of the economy. Agricultural production accounted for more than 8 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2008, an increase of almost 9 per cent compared to 2007. Even in the context of the global financial and economic crisis, Belarus's agricultural sector is showing some growth.

Land, water and other natural resources

Steps are being taken in Belarus to tackle the causes of land degradation, such as large-scale logging and the clearance of land for agriculture and urban development (deforestation), overexploitation and unsustainable agricultural practices.

One of Belarus's specific difficulties is the need for large-scale measures to prevent the degradation of land affected by radioactive contamination as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986. In this connection, active efforts are being made to rehabilitate areas contaminated with radionuclides and to develop and implement protective measures in agriculture.

We view sustainable systems of crop and livestock farming as an effective barrier to the abuse of ecosystems. They also ensure the necessary conditions for the conservation and expansion of forest and water resources and biodiversity, the preservation of natural landscapes and climate control. This type of effective

management of natural resources gives grounds for optimism about the wide use of new and renewable sources of energy in Belarus in the future.

Ensuring sustainable development by preserving cultural and historical assets

During the Year of Our Native Land, numerous historical and architectural monuments in Belarus will be restored and the construction of sociocultural infrastructure will continue. The measures which we plan to take will not only make the appearance of towns and villages more attractive but will also improve the environmental situation in the country as a whole.

We plan to take steps to regenerate and develop specially protected natural territories, including the Belovezhskaya Pushcha nature reserve, which is unique in the world and whose 600th anniversary falls in 2009.

The culture of taking a civilized approach to the environment is inextricably linked to the history of our homeland. In 2009, Belarus, having defeated fascism like the rest of the world, will mark the sixty-fifth anniversary of the country's liberation, which can be regarded as one of the turning points of the Second World War. We consider the patriotic education of young people in a spirit of respect for the origins of our national history, language and culture to be the essential long-term foundation for the sustainable and progressive development of State and society in Belarus.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 49 [illegible] a document of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable [illegible]pment.

(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**